

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

---

MAY 11, 1836.

Read, and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. EWING made the following

REPORT,

UPON BILL H. R. 124.

*The Committee on Public Lands, to whom was referred a bill for the relief of the heirs of John Brahan, late receiver of public moneys at Huntsville, Alabama, report :*

That they find, among the papers referred to them, a report of the Committee on the Public Lands of the House of Representatives, bearing date the 13th of January, 1835, which contains a very full statement of the grounds on which it has been thought proper to extend to the petitioner the relief prayed for ; and as your committee are desirous of bringing the subject, with all its merits, fully before the Senate, they here refer to that report, and adopt it as a statement of the petitioner's case, and a summing up of the arguments in favor of his right, while, at the same time, they are constrained to differ entirely from the conclusion to which that report comes.

The ground on which the equitable claim for relief rests is, that Brahan became the purchaser of the public lands, not for the purpose of private speculation, but really and *bona fide* as the agent of the Government ; that agency not duly created but assumed by an officer, because of a sudden and pressing necessity, to prevent a loss which the Government was likely to sustain. If this state of things be not shown to have existed, all right to relief fails.

Your committee entertain no doubt of the fact that a combination or combinations of speculators were formed to put down competition in the purchase of the public lands. That Brahan bid against them, and thus became largely a purchaser, is also established ; but the motives which induced his competition, and the character in which he bid, as agent for the Government or for his own personal profit, is a matter to be determined by an examination of the evidence.

It is suggested that the prices which he gave for the land which he purchased, were so *high*, that he could not reasonably hope to make a profit on them, and that hence it is to be presumed that he did not bid them in for personal profit, but to save the Government from loss. But this argument, it seems to your committee, destroys itself. If the lands were bid

up to their full value, or very nearly to their value, it was not necessary for the protection of the rights of the United States that any one should step in as their agent, and run up the lands beyond that value. In a sale at auction by a private individual it would be a *fraud* upon other bidders to do so, and the United States cannot be presumed to have created such agency, nor can they, after the fact, recognise the act of any such self-created agent as their own.

But it appears, by contemporaneous communications between Brahan and the Treasury Department, that he did not at that time pretend to any such agency, or to have acted in any capacity as the guardian of the rights and interests of the Government. To this correspondence, and other explanatory statements printed in the 7th vol. of Executive papers of the 1st session of the 17th Congress, doc. 130, to page 24, inclusive, your committee refer, and make the same a part of this their report.

From this document, your committee are irresistibly led to the conclusion that Mr. Brahan, taking advantage of his situation as a public officer, and the advantages it gave him, entered, in his own name, at private sale, at the minimum price, about one hundred tracts of the public lands; that he became a purchaser at the public sales for a very large amount; that, having purchased beyond his means of payment, he kept back his returns under various pretences, for the purpose of concealing his defalcation; that there were circumstances which induced a strong suspicion at the time that he was engaged in the purchase of Mississippi stock, then selling at fifty cents in the dollar, and turning it in to himself, as receiver, to pay for the land which he had bought, and for which he was a defaulter; that this suspicion was communicated to him by the Secretary of the Treasury, and he did not deny or contradict it; that after sundry efforts to bring him to account, he confessed his defalcation, and pretends that part of it is occasioned by loss which occurred in the hurry of business. He was thereupon dismissed from office. He has, under the relief law of 1821, relinquished so much of his purchase as he saw fit, reserving a large amount of it. He has paid up, it is believed, the principal debt, and his widow and heirs now ask to be relieved from the payment of the interest. Your committee are of opinion that the bill ought to be rejected.

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In the House of Representatives of the United States, January 13, 1835.

Mr. CLAYTON, from the Committee on [the Public Lands, made the following report:

*The Committee on the Public Lands, to whom was referred the petition of the widow and children of the late General Brahan, receiver of public moneys at Huntsville, Alabama, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report:*

That, by the proclamation of the President of the United States, a sale of public lands was ordered at Huntsville, on the 1st Monday in February, 1818. It further appears, by the statement of General John Coffee,

that "a plan was proposed by some of the capitalists about Huntsville, by which they were to form a company of every man who chose to join it, and who had a sum of money to invest in the capital stock. The company were to purchase all the land, or as much as they could, for the joint benefit of all concerned, to the amount of their capital; after the public sales were over, they were to put up to public sale all their purchases, and the profits made were to be divided amongst the company. They proposed, as it was termed, to run down small capitalists, or such as would not join their company. It was understood that the company sent out men on the different public roads which led to Huntsville, to meet strangers coming in to purchase, to get them to join the company, and thereby keep down opposition to their scheme. In this state of things, the officers of Government present, viz. General John Brahan, as receiver of public moneys, Colonel John Read, as register of the land office, and myself, as surveyor of public lands, felt it a duty, by all the means within our reach, to oppose the plans of the company, and prevent them, if possible, from purchasing the lands at the minimum price, or below its real value, and thereby speculate upon the Government, and on those persons who were desirous to purchase for actual settlement. Counsel was consulted on the propriety of stopping the sales by the register and receiver, if it was found that the lands were about to sell for less than their value. The two latter gentlemen expressed great anxiety on the subject lest the interest of the Government should be affected." It seems, from the statement of Judge Minor, then acting as Attorney General for the Mississippi Territory, and the county of Madison, in Alabama, that he was once or oftener applied to by Colonel Read and General Brahan, and his opinion asked as to the legality of postponing the sales in consequence of the combination formed to purchase the public lands for the purposes of speculation, and that he gave it as his opinion it could not be done. The sales therefore went on, and, through the influence of the officers of Government, opposition was excited against the speculators, and, says General Coffee, the first tract of land offered for sale "was bid off for something like twenty dollars (per acre,) far beyond any calculations which we had made of the value of the lands; this seemed to raise great excitement in the immense crowd of people present; all seemed to feel interested on one side or the other, and, as the sale progressed, the feelings raised. Much of the land that day was sold for twenty dollars and upwards; General Brahan took an active part in bidding against the company, and of course became the purchaser of several high-priced tracts the first day. The sales continued from day to day, with the same feelings of opposition, and I feel well assured that many persons bid during the sales more than *double* the sum they would have given before the sales commenced; *I know it was the case with myself, and feel well satisfied it was the case with General Brahan*, for we had many conversations on the subject. I knew at the time he had a large sum in scrip, and towards the close of the sales I heard the General remark that his commissions would be worth something like thirty thousand dollars, which, in addition to his scrip, he thought would pretty well cover all his purchases."

Judge Minor confirms fully the statement of General Coffee as to the combination of speculators to purchase the public lands, and the great

solicitude felt by General Brahan and Colonel Read as to the consequences ; and, upon his opinion that nothing could be done by way of postponing the sales to prevent it, they were put up under the hope of exciting opposition against the company, which was effectually done ; he adds, that "General Brahan bought to a very large amount at these sales ; and that, from all I saw and heard, I believe that his activity in bidding had a *considerable effect* in enhancing the prices. I have been informed, and believe, that he has since sold land certificates to a large amount, bought at these sales, at a discount of 50 per cent."

Under the circumstances above stated, and in a spirit of opposition to what was conceived an unjustifiable attempt to defraud the Government, General Brahan was induced to purchase very largely of the public lands, and, indeed, to an amount, from causes which he could not control, beyond his ability to pay. He relied confidently upon realizing for the Government the full amount of his purchases from actual settlers, who were seeking establishments at that time in very great numbers, never calculating in the remotest degree upon making anything, the high prices given for the land rendering that impossible ; but unfortunately a most unfavorable change in the existing state of affairs took place, which wholly disappointed his expectations. The act of 1820 changed the mode of selling lands from a credit to a cash system, which greatly reduced the value of lands that had been purchased under the former system ; and, add to this a great fall in the price of the staple commodity of the country, and an unusual and sudden diminution of the paper circulation of the banks, which had theretofore been as unusually increased.

As soon as General Brahan discovered the unfortunate situation in which his zeal in the first instance for the public interest, and then the untoward changes of the times, had involved him, he lost no time in making it known to the honorable William H. Crawford, then Secretary of the Treasury, with a prompt offer to secure the Government by lien on his property, in whatever sum he should be found indebted. In the month of December, 1820, General Brahan placed in the hands of certain trustees appointed by the agent of the Treasury Department, good bonds, amounting to upwards of forty thousand dollars, and a large amount of real estate under a deed of trust, subject to the entire control of the Secretary of the Treasury, the proceeds of which, when collected, were to be applied to the credit of this debt, estimated then, but not accurately ascertained, at about \$80,772. It appears, also, that the original bond of the said Brahan was lost, and that he very promptly renewed it, under a promise, however, that he should not be placed in a worse condition than he would be under the old one, if it were in existence, and should be liable only for the amount found to be actually due on a final settlement of his accounts at the Treasury Department.

In the year 1821, Congress passed an act granting relief to purchasers of public lands ; and under the provisions of that law, the said Brahan, as is stated by the petitioners, and confirmed by Judge Minor, sold the certificates for most of the lands he had purchased ; at fifty cents in the dollar upon their original cost, thereby losing not less than thirty thousand dollars, but faithfully applying these proceeds to the payment of the debt due the Government.

The petitioners state, and show by a document from the Treasury, that,



by great exertions and sacrifices, and the sale of the greater part of his active and most valuable property, the said Braban has paid to the Government the sum of \$80,864, which sum exceeds the principal of the debt, as appears by another Treasury document, \$7,252.

The petitioners rest their hopes of relief upon the foregoing facts, a summary of which, and the considerations which they naturally suggest, are simply these: That their husband and father acted, in every equitable sense, and in the strictest character of disinterestedness, as the agent of the Government, voluntarily, it is true, but justly entitled, not only from the motive which influenced him, but from the actual service rendered the Government, to all the benefits which an authorized agency would have secured him. That this risk and consequent loss was incurred against an unprincipled combination seeking to rob the Government of its revenue. That the attempt was counteracted, and a most profitable sale effected, by means of the excitement and opposition created by the officers of the Government against this confederacy of speculators. That, in proof of the disinterested character of the agency, an attempt was made on his part to postpone the sales, if it could be lawfully done, with a view to prevent an honestly apprehended injury to the Government, and when that could not be done, he made his purchases at prices that utterly forbid the idea that the slightest hope of profit could have been entertained. That, if this view of the subject be correct, and it can scarcely admit of a doubt, justice and equity, and especially the magnanimity of a Government that seeks nothing contrary to these great principles, would hold him in no other light than that of a trustee. That he honestly made known his case, and the misfortunes growing out of it, to the Government, and promptly secured it to the full amount of its demand against him. That he renewed his obligations to it by a second official bond, upon being required, in consequence of the loss of the first. That, notwithstanding the high prices which he gave for the lands, he would have been enabled to have extricated himself from difficulty, but for the intervention of certain causes which he had no right to expect, two of them growing out of the acts of the Government itself, viz: the alteration of the mode of selling its lands, and the taking away from him his commission, being one per cent., which, according to General Coffee's testimony, was one of his principal reliances to discharge his debt, actually mentioned by him at the close of the sales. That the Government has extended to other purchasers of lands, at various times, great indulgence and relief, under circumstances which by no means possessed the merit of the present application, because, in those cases, there existed only the simple relation of seller and purchaser, but, in this case, it is extended to that of purchaser, for an enormous consideration, to prevent a gross fraud upon the seller's rights. That the Government has lost nothing by the sales, for they have received every dollar of the principal, resulting, as it did, from a most extravagant price, produced under such an excitement, purposely created for the public interest, as that, in the words of General Coffee, "more than *double* the sum was given for the lands than would have been given before the sales." That, not only the principal has been paid, but upwards of \$7,000 of the interest with it, contrary, as is believed, to the usages of the Government in its outstanding accounts against very many officers; that, besides this heavy loss, he lost his office at the same time, in consequence of his delinquency—

a delinquency, as will be perceived, occasioned by no malfeasance, but purely from a zeal to serve the public interest, followed up by misfortunes entirely beyond the exertion of the most prudential vigilance to prevent. Under these circumstances, the petitioners, a widow and seven children, state "most respectfully, that although the losses of the decedent, from the peculiar pressure of the times, were very great and embarrassing, they have the consolation to believe that he saved to the Government, by the course which ruined him and the future prospects of his family, nearly half a million of dollars. The decedent, at his death, owed some other debts, to a considerable amount, so that, unless his estate can be relieved of the interest which has accrued on the Government's debt, it will be unable to pay its debts, and all the property left by the decedent will be swept away from the petitioners, and his infant children will be left penniless to seek a living upon the cold charities of the world." They therefore pray that the Secretary of the Treasury be authorized, by law, to settle and adjust the accounts of the said John Brahan, so as to release his estate from the payment of interest on account of his said debt to the Government.

The committee are of the opinion that the pray of the petitioners is reasonable and just, and ought to be granted, and for that purpose report a bill.

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *May 2, 1822.*

SIR: In obedience to a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 18th ultimo, directing the Secretary of the Treasury to lay before the House "a statement showing the amount of public moneys for which John Brahan, late receiver of public money at the land office at Huntsville, was indebted to the Government at the time he was dismissed from office; the amount of public money in the hands of said receiver, at the end of each quarter of every year, from the 1st of January, 1817, until the time of his dismissal; all information obtained or received by the said Secretary, as to the use the said receiver made of said money; copies of all letters and instructions from the Department to the said receiver within the said period; all correspondence in the possession of the Department, and other information obtained by the Secretary thereof, in relation to any improper conduct, violation of official trust, or omission of duty on the part of the said receiver; together with a statement of the time at which the Secretary was first notified or had reason to suspect such improper conduct, violation of official trust, or omission of duty; the measures adopted to recover said money, if any; the time when they were commenced; what agent was employed for that purpose; what he accomplished; the compensation allowed him for the same; if any mortgage or deed of trust on land had been given; what land, the price at which it was originally sold by the Government; whether, in the opinion of the said Secretary, the valuation of the land has depreciated; and if so, whether, making all due allowance for such depreciation, the said debt is well secured to the Government; who are the said receiver's securities; in what some bound; and what proceedings have been instituted against them," I have the honor to submit the statements and correspondence required by the said resolution.

Before the year 1818, the amount of sales in the district of Madison county was inconsiderable. In the early part of that year, and of the year following, the sales were very extensive, and the prices given for the land, when offered at public sale, were highly extravagant. Previous to that time, nothing had occurred to excite suspicion; but in the month of November of the same year, the want of punctuality in rendering the monthly accounts required of the receivers of public lands, excited some suspicion, and produced the letter of the 26th of November. The failure of that letter to produce the transmission of the accounts then in arrear, induced me to write the letter of the 24th of March, 1819. In the month of June, the accounts were rendered, and disclosed the fact that the receiver had, during the preceding nine months, retained nearly \$80,000 in his hands, according to his own statement.

No charge of malversation in office was ever made to this Department, during the whole of this period, against the official conduct of the receiver, nor was any suspicion entertained that he had misapplied the public money, before the autumn of 1818, and the failure to render his accounts with punctuality was then the only ground of suspicion.

I have not the means of knowing whether the land transferred in trust for securing the debt has depreciated in value, or whether the debt is well secured; but the information which has been received has led to the belief that it is.

From the letter of the First Comptroller of the Treasury, it appears that there is no evidence that bond and security was ever given by the said receiver, and that, consequently, no suit or action at law has been instituted against such securities.

I remain, with respect, &c.

WM. H. CRAWFORD.

P. P. BARBOUR,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

*Comptroller's Office, May 3, 1822.*

SIR: I received your note of the 1st instant, in which you request to be informed who are the sureties of John Brahan, late receiver at Huntsville, and whether any suit has been brought against them.

In reply, I have the honor to state that, on carefully examining the files of this office, no bond of John Brahan's can be found; and, from a communication received from the Commissioner of the General Land Office, of yesterday's date, (a copy of which is enclosed,) it does not appear that Mr. Brahan ever gave a bond as receiver.

No suit was instituted against him, in consequence of his having executed a deed of trust, conveying all his property to the United States, and having assigned to them a number of notes of hand, amounting to \$46,002 12.

With considerations of high respect,

I have the honor to be, &c.

JOS. ANDERSON,

*Comptroller.*

Hon. WM. H. CRAWFORD.

## GENERAL LAND OFFICE,

May 2, 1822.

SIR : I answer to your note of this day, that John Brahan's commission was sent from the Treasury Department April 10, 1809, with the form of a bond for \$10,000, which he was requested to execute, with one or more sureties. On the 12th of May, 1809, he acknowledged the receipt of the commission, and promised to send the bond. No bond can be found in this office.

Very respectfully, &amp;c.

JOSIAH MEIGS.

The COMPTROLLER OF THE TREASURY.

## TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Register's Office, May 1, 1822.

I hereby certify that Obadiah Jones received a warrant, dated the 8th of April, 1820, for one hundred and twenty-six dollars and fifty cents, being the amount allowed to him for his services and expenses, for fourteen days' riding, &c. in securing a debt due to the United States from John Brahan, receiver of public moneys in Alabama, including the drawing, recording, and copying a deed of trust.

JOSEPH NOURSE,

Register.

## TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

November 26, 1818.

SIR : No return has been received from you since that dated on the 30th of June. The pressure of business, arising from the late sales in your district, and to which you some time since attributed the delay in preparing and rendering your returns, it is presumed exists no longer ; you will, therefore, transmit them forthwith.

The construction which I shall give to the act fixing the compensation of receivers and registers of the different land offices, will enable them to pay clerk hire, to a reasonable amount, in proportion to the service rendered, where the commission of one per cent. shall exceed the maximum of the compensation fixed by law.

It is, however, intended to keep the expenditure of clerk hire under the control of the Treasury, in order to prevent extravagance.

I am, &amp;c.,

WM. H. CRAWFORD.

JOHN BRAHAN, Esq.,

Receiver of public moneys at Huntsville, A. T.

## TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

January 8, 1819.

SIR : In the return of the Planters and Merchants' Bank of Huntsville, I perceive a credit given to the Treasurer of the United States for

a "special deposit" of \$16,000, made by you on the 10th ultimo. You will be pleased to state what this deposit consisted of. If it consists of moneys which you are authorized to receive, I wish to know why it has been made special; if not, I wish to be informed of the circumstances that have induced you to receive moneys that the bank will not credit as cash.

I am, &c.,

WM. H. CRAWFORD.

JOHN BRAHAN, Esq.,

*Receiver of public moneys at Huntsville, A. T.*

RECEIVER'S OFFICE AT HUNTSVILLE, A. T.

*February 6, 1819.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th ultimo, in which you request me to explain the reason why a deposit of \$16,000, to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States, made by me in the Planters and Merchants' Bank of Huntsville, was a special one. It appears, by a resolution of the board of directors of the Planters and Merchants' Bank of Huntsville, that was made perhaps the early part of December, that the notes of that bank, and the Bank of the United States, were the only notes that would be received on general deposit, and the notes of all other banks would be received on special deposit. The deposit, as above named, was made of notes such as I was authorized to receive, of different respectable banks, who paid specie for their notes, to wit: the notes on the banks of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, the State Bank of Tennessee, and the Nashville Bank, &c., and, as soon as I found that this resolution would be adhered to in the deposits made of the moneys belonging to the United States, I informed you of it in my letter of the 18th of December last. This letter of mine I presume you had not received on the 8th of January, the date of yours. Please to inform me what I must do in the business; whether to continue to make my deposits in this way or not. The special deposit stands nearly as other deposits, and I presume can make but little difference. However, it was a measure I did not approve of, which I informed the president and directors of, and I took the earliest opportunity of informing you of it.

I am, with respect, your obedient servant,

JOHN BRAHAN,

*Receiver of Public Moneys.*

HON. WM. H. CRAWFORD,

*Secretary of the Treasury.*

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *March 24, 1819.*

SIR: Your letter of the 15th ultimo, enclosing the return for the month of September last, has been received.

It appears, from that return, that the receipts in Mississippi stock du-



ring that month, amounted to \$377,663 73½, which has been transmitted to the General Land Office contemporaneously with the return.

Having, on the 8th day of December last, instructed the Commissioner of the General Land Office to inform the receivers and registers that a reasonable allowance would be made for clerk hire, where the salary and commissions should exceed three thousand dollars, I have felt some surprise at the delay which has occurred in the transmission of your accounts. You are now six months in arrear, and, judging of the future by the past, there is no just reason to expect your accounts will be rendered more punctually during the ensuing than they have been the past year. This state of things, there can be no hesitation in saying, will not be tolerated. If the monthly accounts cannot be forwarded regularly, in the course of each succeeding month, by you, there will be no difficulty in having it done by some other person.

It is extremely desirable that the conduct of the officers of the Government, especially those who have charge of the public money, should not only be correct, but that there should be no possible cause of suspecting them to be incorrect. If there should exist any peculiarity in the situation of an officer which is calculated to excite suspicion, it is more imperiously his interest and duty to exert more than ordinary diligence in the discharge of his official duties. The office of receiver of public money in a land district, is one which presents strong and continued temptations to the misapplication of the public money which is received. If the officer should be, at the same time, a director of a bank, established at the seat of the office, the facility with which public money, applied to individual and speculative purposes, may be temporarily replaced, in case of emergency, the temptation to abuses of this nature is greatly enhanced. But, if the payments to the receiver may be made in a medium which can be purchased greatly below the rate at which it is receivable, the temptation to the substitution of that depreciated medium for the money which may have been received, will be still more enhanced. I perceive, in your return for September, that more than \$53,000 in money remained in your hands at the end of that month. Upon referring to the receipts which you have forwarded, it appears that \$44,036 were deposited by you in the month of October, and that large sums have been deposited since that time. These circumstances are mentioned with a view to impress you with a due sense of the delicacy of your situation, and to show the necessity of the most extreme circumspection in the discharge of your official duties. It is hardly possible for any situation to be more so than yours; and nothing short of the most rigid, and, permit me to add, the most prompt execution of them, will be sufficient to guard you against suspicion. It is indispensable that the stock received each month should be transmitted in the course of the succeeding month. Let the whole which is now in hand be immediately sent to the land office, and suffer no accumulation of it hereafter in your hands.

I am, very respectfully, sir,

Your obedient servant,

WM. H. CRAWFORD.

JOHN BRAHAN, Esq.,

*Receiver of Public Moneys, Huntsville, Ala.*

## RECEIVER'S OFFICE,

*Huntsville, A. T., June 28, 1819.*

SIR : I have the mortification to inform you that there is a considerable deficiency in my cash account. The cause I can only account for in part. The business being large, and the time to sell and receive being only two weeks at each sale, I was always fearful that, in the hurried state of things, I should sustain considerable loss. I am now convinced of the fact, and beg leave to inform you that I am now closely employed in getting the books of the office up, and as soon as that can be done, and I can procure and deposite the balance due to Government, it will then be my wish to retire from an office of so much risk and responsibility as the one I hold. This circumstance has given me more concern than any occurrence of my life, and the deficiency shall be made up as quick as possible, at any sacrifice. I think, by the last of September, I can make all square ; at all events, will do all in my power by that time. I have been in public service upwards of twenty years, and this is the first time in my life that my accounts have ever exhibited any loss of public money. I must, therefore, beg a little indulgence, to enable me to arrange the business, as it is my determination that the Government shall not lose any thing by me, even if it takes all I have to make good the loss. Property of all sorts is very low at this time, and I am well aware that I must make a great sacrifice to raise the money, but I shall not hesitate to do it.

I have the honor to be, &amp;c.

JOHN BRAHAN, *R. P. M.*

The Hon. WM. H. CRAWFORD,  
*Secretary of the Treasury.*

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *August 12, 1819.*

SIR : Your letter of the 28th June last, but post-marked the 8th ultimo, has been received.

The information which it contains has created no surprise. The withholding of your account, and the retention of nearly \$80,000 in your hands, from month to month, could leave no room to doubt of the misapplication of the public money to that amount.

It is now important to secure, with as little delay as possible, to the Government, the repayment of the sum which has been applied to your private use. For this purpose, I have requested a gentleman of your acquaintance to call upon you to receive such security as shall be in your power to give. Considering the manner in which this demand has been created, it is expected you will seize with avidity the earliest opportunity of repairing the injury which the Government has suffered by your acts.

I am, very respectfully, sir,

Your obedient servant,

WM. H. CRAWFORD.

JOHN BRAHAN, Esq.,  
*Rec. of Public Moneys, Huntsville, Alab.*

## TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

*August 12, 1819.*

SIR: The failure of the receiver of public moneys at Huntsville to render his accounts with punctuality, and the state of such as were rendered, excited well-founded suspicions that he had applied a large amount of the public moneys to his private use. Recently, his accounts have been rendered as late as the month of April last, and show a balance retained in his hands of nearly \$80,000.

A few days past a letter was received from Mr. Brahan, bearing date the 28th of June last, but post-marked the 8th ultimo, in which he acknowledges a considerable deficiency in his cash account, and ascribes it in part to the extensive sales which had been made, and the short time allowed for the public sales. He has not stated the amount of the deficiency, but, from the amount which he has retained in his hands for the last six months, as appears by his accounts when rendered, I am persuaded it is not much short of \$80,000.

It is perfectly idle in Mr. Brahan to attempt to conceal the cause of the deficiency. It is perfectly known here, and still better understood by him. It is all-important to the Government that this sum should be immediately secured, if he has property sufficient to do it. I have therefore to request that you will, immediately after the receipt of this letter, proceed to Huntsville, and require of Mr. Brahan to secure to the United States the amount of the deficit. If deeds of trust which authorize the trustee to sell the property without any judicial procedure are recognised by the laws of the Territory, they will be preferable to mortgages, which require time and involve expense. It is presumed that Mr. Brahan will not hesitate to execute any instrument or deed which you shall deem necessary to secure the debt to the United States. Enclosed I send you a certified copy of his last return, which will enable you to ascertain the balance due by him. To this balance you will add the amount of money received since, which can be ascertained by reference to the books of the register; from that sum deduct the sums which he has since paid, the difference will be the sum due according to his own statement. You will, however, avoid any expression in the writings which you may have executed that will preclude the Government from making such further demands upon him as shall be found to be due upon the settlement of his accounts.

A reasonable compensation will be made for the services which you may render, which shall be remitted in a draft upon the Huntsville bank as soon as your account shall be received.

I am, very respectfully, sir,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. CRAWFORD.

OBADIAH JONES, Esq.,

*Limestone county, Alabama.*

## TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

July 18, 1820.

SIR: I have just received a letter from Mr. Brahan, your predecessor in office, in which, after giving a detailed statement of his means to discharge the debt due by him to the United States, he asks for some indulgence, as it regards the payment of a portion of the first instalment.

If, therefore, the trustees (of which you are one) shall be of opinion that Mr. Brahan is making every proper exertion to meet his engagements with the public, they are at liberty to comply with his request.

I am, very respectfully, sir,

Your obedient servant,

WM. H. CRAWFORD.

OBADIAH JONES, Esq.,

*Receiver of Public Moneys, Huntsville.*

## TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

April 12, 1821.

SIR: In answer to your several communications relative to the debt of Mr. Brahan, I beg leave to observe that this Department is not fitted for the management of mercantile transactions, and it is with extreme reluctance that it engages in any transaction of this nature.

If the purchases of cotton, proposed by Mr. Brahan, were made in the early part of the season, there is some grounds to apprehend loss upon the investments.

I have no objection to your lending your name to him, so as to place the proceeds of the cotton he may ship to New York, under your control, as one of the trustees for the United States. So far there will be no compromitment of the Treasury. If he has been permitted by you to invest in cotton any part of the proceeds of the bonds, notes, and debts, which were assigned to you in trust, it will be highly expedient that you should preserve over the investment such a control as will secure the payment of the proceeds to the Treasurer of the United States. From the conduct of Mr. Brahan in this affair, and especially from the confidence which his intimate acquaintances repose in him, I have no doubt of the fairness of any transaction in which he may have engaged upon this subject. I rely, with the most unlimited confidence, in your attention and judgment, and shall be satisfied with any thing which you shall do, with the concurrence of a majority of the trustees, keeping in view always, that nothing is to be received which is not controvertible into specie at the will of the United States. This reservation is not to be understood to restrain the exercise of your discretion in relation to investments in cotton, at the risk of Mr. Brahan, which is to be shipped to New York, subject to your order.

I am, very respectfully, sir,

Your obedient servant,

WM. H. CRAWFORD.

OBADIAH JONES, Esq.,

*Receiver of Public Moneys, Huntsville, Alabama.*

*ACCOUNT of Lands purchased by John Brahan, (late) Receiver of Public Moneys at Huntsville, from the 1st day of January, 1817, to the 10th of April, 1819.*

		Tract purchased.				Quantity.	Rate per acre.	Am't of pur- chase money.	Amount paid.
1817.									
Nov. 24	John Brahan	SW. quarter	23	4	1 E.	159 40	\$2 00	\$318 80	\$79 70
		Frac. section	19	4	1 W.	611 61	27 00	16,513 47	4,128 37
1818.									
Feb. 2		Frac. sections	20 & 29	4	1 W.	613 91	20 00	12,278 20	3,069 35
		NE. quarter	31	4	1	160 52	26 00	4,173 52	1,043 38
		SW. quarter	31	4	1	160 52	27 00	4,334 04	1,083 51
		SE. quarter	31	4	1	160 52	29 00	4,655 08	1,163 77
		NW. quarter	31	4	1	160 52	27 50	4,414 30	1,103 57 $\frac{1}{2}$
		SE. quarter	32	4	1	162 39	19 00	3,085 41	771 35
		NW. quarter	32	4	1	162 39	27 75	4,506 32	1,126 58
		SW. quarter	22	5	1	158 20	6 50	1,028 30	257 07 $\frac{1}{2}$
		NW. quarter	22	5	1	158 20	12 00	1,898 40	474 60
		Frac. sections	26 27 & 34	5	1	336 41	7 00	2,354 87	588 72
		SE. quarter	35	4	2	161 24	6 70	1,080 31	245 89
		SW. quarter	35	4	2	161 24	8 10	1,306 04	326 51
		NE. quarter	36	4	2	159 75	22 00	3,514 50	878 62 $\frac{1}{2}$
		SE. quarter	36	4	2	159 75	7 00	1,118 25	279 56 $\frac{1}{4}$
4		NW. quarter	18	5	2	157 70	20 00	3,154 00	788 50
		Frac. section	28	5	2	595 31	10 00	5,953 10	1,488 27 $\frac{1}{2}$
		SE. quarter	29	5	2	149 75	11 25	1,684 69	421 17
		SW. quarter	29	5	2	149 75	5 50	823 63	205 91
		Frac. sections	3 2 & 5	5-6	2-2	552 80	7 50	4,146 00	1,036 50
5		E. $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE. $\frac{1}{4}$	2	5	2	79 88	17 25	1,377 93	344 28
		W. $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE. $\frac{1}{4}$	2	5	2	79 88	12 50	998 50	249 62 $\frac{1}{2}$
		E. $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW. $\frac{1}{4}$	30	5	2 W.	78 54	2 00	157 08	39 27
6		SW. quarter	4	4	3	159 02	21 00	3,339 42	834 85 $\frac{1}{2}$
		SE. quarter	8	4	3	158 89	6 00	953 34	238 33 $\frac{1}{2}$
		NE. quarter	9	4	3	159 77	28 10	4,489 54	1,122 38 $\frac{1}{2}$
		SE. quarter	9	4	3	159 77	29 20	4,665 28	1,166 32



7		SW. quarter	9	4	3W	159 77	30 62	4,892 15	1,223 04
		NW. quarter	9	4	3	159 77	27 15	4,837 75	1,084 44
		SW. quarter	10	4	3	160 30	16 70	2,677 01	669 25
		SW. quarter	22	4	3	160 50	20 50	3,290 25	822 56
		SW. quarter	8	5	3	162 11	5 75	934 14	233 03½
		NW. quarter	8	5	3	162 11	15 00	8,431 65	1,215 82
		NE. quarter	13	5	3	180 00	12 00	2,160 00	540 00
		SE. quarter	6	3	4	161 25	2 13	343 46	85 86½
		NE. quarter	7	3	4	159 75	2 30	367 42	91 85½
		NE. quarter	9	3	4	161 22	11 00	1,173 42	443 35½
		SE. quarter	9	3	4	161 22	16 05	2,587 58	646 89½
		SW. quarter	9	3	4	161 22	11 00	1,773 42	443 35½
		NW. quarter	9	3	4	161 22	21 50	3,466 23	866 56
		NW. quarter	15	3	4	159 75	2 10	335 47	83 87
		NE. quarter	34	3	4	158 64	13 05	2,070 25	517 56
		NE. quarter	20	4	4	158 50	5 00	792 50	198 12½
		SW. quarter	34	3	4	158 64	6 00	951 84	237 96
		NW. quarter	10	4	5	160 02	9 05	1,448 18	362 04½
		SE. quarter	18	2	9	164 06	2 00	328 12	82 03
		SW. quarter	28	2	9	160 78	3 00	482 34	120 58½
		NW. quarter	28	2	9	160 78	2 10	337 64	84 41
		SW. quarter	35	2	9	150 44	13 10	1,970 76	492 69
		Frac. section	2	3	9	450 00	5 25	2,362 50	590 62½
		NW. quarter	22	1	10	159 42	2 00	318 84	79 71
		NE. quarter	6	2	10	160 00	2 00	320 00	80 00
		SE. quarter	22	2	10	160 40	3 00	481 20	120 30
		SW. quarter	22	2	10	160 40	2 00	320 80	80 20
		NW. quarter	22	2	10	160 40	2 00	320 80	80 20
		SW. quarter	23	2	10	159 78	2 00	319 56	79 89
		NW. quarter	23	2	10	159 78	6 00	958 68	239 67
		Frac. section	35	2	10	376 93	4 14	1,560 49	390 12
		SW. quarter	3	3	11	160 80	3 00	482 64	120 66
		NW. quarter	3	3	11	160 88	4 05	651 56	162 89
		NE. quarter	4	3	11	161 00	4 50	724 50	181 12½
		SE. quarter	4	3	11	161 00	2 17	349 37	87 34
		SW. quarter	4	3	11	161 00	5 00	805 00	201 25
		NW. quarter	4	3	11	161 00	7 00	1,127 00	281 75
		NE. quarter	5	3	11	160 90	6 01	967 00	241 75
		SE. quarter	5	3	11	160 90	22 50	3,620 25	905 06
		E. ½ of SW. ¼	5	3	11	80 45	16 01	1,288 00	322 00

Assigned to Thomas Bibb,  
on receipt for the sec-  
ond instalment.

# ACCOUNT—Continued.

		Tract purchased.				Quantity.	Rate per acre.	Am't of pur- chase money.	Am't paid.	
March	9	John Brahan.	W. $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW. $\frac{1}{4}$	5	3	11W	80 45	\$2 40	\$193 08	\$48 27
			NW. quarter	5	3	11	160 90	3 50	163 15	140 79
			NE. quarter	6	3	11	160 90	7 50	1,206 75	301 69
			SE. quarter	6	3	11	160 90	2 00	321 80	80 45
			SW. quarter	6	3	11	160 90	2 15	345 94	86 48 $\frac{1}{2}$
			NW. quarter	6	3	11	160 90	10 01	1,610 61	402 65
			SE. quarter	9	3	11	160 86	2 00	321 72	80 43
			SW. quarter	9	3	11	160 86	4 12 $\frac{1}{2}$	663 54	165 88 $\frac{1}{2}$
			NW. quarter	9	3	11	960 86	3 01	484 19	121 05
			SE. quarter	19	3	11	162 15	10 35	1,678 25	419 56
March	10		SE. quarter	35	2	12	156 93	2 00	313 86	78 46 $\frac{1}{2}$
	11		Section	8	3	12	553 30	4 60	2,545 18	636 29 $\frac{1}{2}$
			SW. quarter	9	3	12	159 71	10 76	1,718 48	429 62
			NW. quarter	9	3	12	159 71	7 02	1,121 16	280 29
	12		SE. quarter	13	2	13	154 34	3 95	609 64	152 41
			NE. quarter	24	2	13	153 52	5 00	767 60	191 90
			SE. quarter	24	2	13	153 52	5 10	782 85	195 74
			SW. quarter	24	2	13	153 52	2 75	422 18	105 54 $\frac{1}{2}$
	30		SW. quarter	34	2	9	150 01	2 00	300 02	75 00 $\frac{1}{2}$
			SW. quarter	12	2	9	160 95	2 00	321 90	80 47 $\frac{1}{2}$
			NW. quarter	24	2	10	160 00	2 00	320 00	80 00
			NW. quarter	27	2	10	160 14	2 00	320 28	80 07
			NE. quarter	14	2	9	159 05	2 00	318 10	79 52 $\frac{1}{2}$
			NE. quarter	27	2	10	160 14	2 00	320 28	80 07
			SW. quarter	1	2	9	160 48	2 00	320 96	80 24
			Frac. sections	3 & 4	3	9	258 28	2 00	516 56	129 14
			NW. quarter	13	2	9	160 30	2 00	320 60	80 15
July	6		NW. quarter	35	5	1	159 94	2 00	319 88	79 97
			Frac. section	4	6	1	522 35	2 00	1,044 70	261 17 $\frac{1}{2}$
			Frac. section	5	6	1	446 58	3 80	1,697 00	424 25
			SW. quarter	18	7	1	160 08	3 50	560 18	140 04 $\frac{1}{2}$
	7		NW. quarter	36	5	2	160 08	2 70	432 22	108 05 $\frac{1}{2}$

		NE. quarter	1	6	2	158 68	2 00	317 56	79 34
'8	-	SW. quarter	24	6	2	160 22	2 10	356 46	84 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
9	-	NW. quarter	10	6	3	159 22	3 10	493 58	123 39 $\frac{1}{2}$
		NE. quarter	9	6	3	158 48	2 20	348 66	87 16 $\frac{1}{2}$
11	-	NE. quarter	20	5	4	159 76	8 00	1,278 08	319 52
		SE. quarter	20	5	4	159 76	8 75	1,397 90	349 47 $\frac{1}{2}$
		SW. quarter	20	5	4	159 76	10 75	1,717 42	429 35 $\frac{1}{2}$
		E. $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW. $\frac{1}{4}$	20	5	4	79 88	10 25	813 77	204 69
		W. $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW. $\frac{1}{4}$	20	5	4	79 88	13 60	1,086 36	271 59
		NE. quarter	30	5	4	160 44	2 00	320 88	80 22
		SE. quarter	31	5	4	159 96	2 50	399 90	99 97 $\frac{1}{2}$
		NW. quarter	31	5	4	159 96	5 20	831 89	207 95
		SE. quarter	33	5	4	160 34	6 20	994 10	248 52 $\frac{1}{2}$
		SW. quarter	33	5	4	160 34	6 00	962 04	240 51
		NE. quarter	4	6	4	160 48	10 13	1,625 66	406 41 $\frac{1}{2}$
		SE. quarter	4	6	4	160 48	6 00	962 88	240 72
		NW. quarter	4	6	4	160 48	3 30	529 58	132 39 $\frac{1}{2}$
18	-	SE. quarter	17	7	5	159 51	2 90	462 58	115 64 $\frac{1}{2}$
August 20	-	W. $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE. $\frac{1}{4}$	33	3	1 E	80 43	2 00	160 86	40 21 $\frac{1}{2}$
		NW. quarter	34	3	1	161 18	2 00	322 36	80 59
Sept. 7	-	NW. quarter	6	4	6 W	159 78	4 65	742 98	185 74 $\frac{1}{2}$
8	-	NE. quarter	34	4	6	160 12	2 00	320 24	80 06
		NW. quarter	35	4	6	159 78	2 00	319 56	79 89
		SE. quarter	1	5	6	160 00	5 00	800 00	200 00
		NE. quarter	2	5	6	160 00	2 20	352 00	88 00
		E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE. $\frac{1}{4}$	2	5	6	80 00	2 25	180 00	45 00
		W. $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW. $\frac{1}{4}$	5	5	6	80 00	3 10	248 00	62 00
		NE. quarter	11	5	6	160 00	5 00	800 00	200 00
		NE. quarter	13	5	6	160 00	10 05	1,608 00	402 00
		SE. quarter	13	5	6	160 00	4 05	648 00	162 00
		SW. quarter	13	5	6	160 00	4 15	664 00	166 09
		NW. quarter	13	5	6	160 00	6 40	1,024 00	256 00
		SE. quarter	14	5	6	160 00	7 00	1,120 00	280 00
		SW. quarter	14	5	6	100 00	6 95	1,112 00	278 00
		SE. quarter	15	5	6	160 00	4 60	736 00	184 00
		NW. quarter	24	5	6	160 00	2 25	360 00	90 00
		NE. quarter	36	5	6	159 22	2 00	318 44	79 61
		NW. quarter	36	5	6	159 22	2 00	318 44	79 61
		NE. quarter	1	6	6	160 59	2 00	321 18	80 29 $\frac{1}{2}$

## ACCOUNT—Continued.

		Tract purchased.				Quantity.	Rate per acre.	Am't of pur- chase money.	Amount paid.
Sept. 9	John Brahan	NW. quarter	18	7	6	158 54	\$5 60	\$887 82	\$221 59 $\frac{1}{2}$
		NE. quarter	21	7	6	159 84	8 10	1,494 70	323 67 $\frac{1}{2}$
		SE. quarter	21	7	6	159 84	10 30	1,646 35	411 59
10	-	NE. quarter	5	4	7	160 00	16 50	2,640 00	660 00
		E. $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE. $\frac{1}{4}$	5	4	7	80 00	23 50	1,880 00	470 00
		W. $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE. $\frac{1}{4}$	5	4	7	80 00	16 10	1,288 00	322 00
		SW. quarter	25	4	7	160 00	5 05	808 00	202 00
		SE. quarter	36	4	7	158 70	16 50	2,618 55	654 34
		NE. quarter	1	5	7	159 62	15 25	2,434 20	608 55
		SE. quarter	1	5	7	159 62	11 60	1,851 59	462 90
		SW. quarter	1	5	7	159 62	10 00	1,596 20	399 05
		NW. quarter	1	5	7	159 62	30 20	4,820 52	1,205 13
11	-	NE. quarter	12	5	7	159 90	5 75	919 43	229 86
		NW. quarter	12	5	7	159 90	4 00	639 60	159 90
		SE. quarter	26	6	7	160 50	4 25	682 13	170 53
		SW. quarter	26	6	7	160 50	4 10	638 05	164 51
12	-	NE. quarter	26	7	7	160 10	3 70	592 37	148 49
		NW. quarter	26	7	7	160 10	2 75	440 27	110 07
		SE. quarter	19	3	8	160 58	11 00	1,766 38	441 59 $\frac{1}{2}$
		SW. quarter	19	3	8	160 58	18 25	2,930 58	732 64 $\frac{1}{2}$
		SE. quarter	30	3	8	160 35	8 50	1,362 97	340 74
		SW. quarter	30	3	8	160 35	5 25	841 84	210 46
		NW. quarter	30	3	8	160 35	20 50	3,287 18	821 79 $\frac{1}{2}$
15	-	NW. quarter	12	5	8	159 50	8 20	1,307 90	326 97 $\frac{1}{2}$
16	-	NE. quarter	24	3	9	159 96	6 00	959 76	239 94
		SE. quarter	24	3	9	159 96	12 00	1,919 52	479 88
		SW. quarter	24	3	9	159 96	5 30	847 78	211 94 $\frac{1}{2}$
		SW. quarter	26	3	9	160 06	5 00	800 30	200 07 $\frac{1}{2}$
		NW. quarter	26	3	9	160 06	5 10	816 30	204 07 $\frac{1}{2}$
		SE. quarter	27	3	9	160 12	4 20	672 50	168 12 $\frac{1}{2}$
		NW. quarter	35	3	9	159 94	3 60	575 78	143 94 $\frac{1}{2}$

		SW. quarter	26	4	9	150 38	18 01	2,888 44	722 11
		SE. quarter	27	4	9	160 26	10 01	1,604 20	401 05
		SE. quarter	33	4	9	162 57	5 90	959 16	239 79
		SW. quarter	34	4	9	161 08	2 35	378 54	94 63½
		E. ½ of NE. ¼	2	5	9	79 84	4 90	391 22	97 80½
		W. ½ of NE. ¼	2	5	9	79 84	2 00	139 68	39 92
17	-	SE. quarter	1	6	9	160 44	2 00	320 88	80 22
		NE. quarter	12	6	9	159 42	3 00	478 26	119 56½
22	-	SW. quarter	3	6	4	160 22	2 00	320 44	80 11
28	-	SE. quarter	29	4	6	161 19	2 00	322 38	80 59½
		SE. quarter	6	4	6	159 73	2 00	319 56	79 89
		NW. quarter	27	4	6	160 23	2 00	320 46	80 11½
		NE. quarter	35	5	6	159 22	2 00	318 44	79 61
		SW. quarter	15	5	6	160 00	2 00	320 00	80 00
		NW. quarter	7	5	6	160 50	2 00	321 00	80 25
		NW. quarter	12	6	9	159 42	2 00	318 84	79 71
		SW. quarter	6	5	6	160 25	2 00	320 50	80 12½
		E. ½ of NW. ¼	2	5	6	80 00	2 00	160 00	40 00
		NW. quarter	26	6	7	160 50	2 00	321 00	80 25
		SE. quarter	13	5	7	160 02	2 00	320 04	80 01
		NE. quarter	26	6	7	160 50	2 00	321 00	80 25
		SW. quarter	23	7	7	159 06	2 00	318 12	79 53
		SE. quarter	12	5	8	159 50	2 00	319 00	79 75
		NW. quarter	25	6	8	160 34	2 00	320 68	80 17
		NW. quarter	7	6	8	159 30	2 00	318 60	79 65
		NW. quarter	28	3	9 W.	160 32	2 00	320 64	80 16
		SE. quarter	36	4	9	160 41	2 00	320 82	80 20½
		NW. quarter	34	3	9	159 84	2 00	319 68	79 92
		NE. quarter	15	3	9	160 04	2 00	320 08	80 02
		NE. quarter	33	3	9	159 92	2 00	319 84	79 96
		SW. quarter	1	6	9	160 44	2 00	320 88	80 22
		NE. quarter	29	3	8	159 60	2 00	319 20	79 80
		SE. quarter	29	3	8	159 60	2 00	319 20	79 80
		SW. quarter	27	3	9	160 12	2 00	320 24	80 06
October 3	-	Town lot	-	No.	11	50	-	235 00	58 75
12	-	Do	-	"	21	50	-	405 00	101 25
		Do	-	"	29	50	-	305 00	76 25
		Do	-	"	30	50	-	310 00	77 50
		Do	-	"	31	50	-	335 00	83 75
13	-	Do	-	"	358	50	-	84 00	21 00



## ACCOUNT—Continued.

		Tract purchased.				Quantity.	Rate per acre.	Am't of purchase money.	Am't paid.	
October 13	John Brahan	Town lot	-	No. 369	50	-	-	\$62 00	\$15 50	
Novem. 2	-	SE. quarter	25	3 10 W.	158 81	\$11 09	1,904 14	476 03½		
		SW. quarter	26	3 10	160 26	8 02	1,285 28	321 32		
		NE. quarter	34	3 10	159 41	8 00	1,275 28	318 82		
3	-	NW. quarter	21	4 10	159 40	12 50	1,992 50	498 12½		
		SE. quarter	30	4 10	156 47	12 05	1,885 46	471 36½		
		SW. quarter	30	4 10	156 47	18 01	2,818 02	704 50½		
4	-	SE. quarter	6	5 10	158 86	3 01	478 16	119 54		
		NW. quarter	7	5 10	156 78	2 90	454 66	113 66¾		
5	-	SW. quarter	27	3 11	160 40	14 00	2,245 60	561 40		
		SE. quarter	1	5 11	159 92	14 01	2,240 48	560 12		
		SW. quarter	1	5 11	159 92	5 01	801 20	200 30		
		SW. quarter	8	5 11	160 57	3 20	513 82	128 45½		
		NE. quarter	12	5 11	160 64	2 61	419 27	104 82		
		SW. quarter -	12	5 11	160 64	2 00	321 28	80 32		
		NW. quarter -	12	5 11	160 64	3 95	634 52	158 63		
		NW. quarter -	17	5 11	159 29	2 60	414 15	103 54		
		SW. quarter -	24	5 11	160 22	2 00	320 44	80 11		
6	-	SE. quarter -	4	6 11	160 59	3 10	497 82	124 45½		
		SE. quarter -	8	6 11	160 05	2 00	320 10	80 02½		
		SW. quarter -	19	6 11	158 52	8 10	1,284 01	321 00		
		NW. quarter -	19	6 11	158 52	5 80	919 41	229 85		
		E. ½ of NE. ¼ -	20	6 11	79 30	13 99	1,109 40	277 35		
		W. ½ of NE. ¼ -	20	6 11	79 30	21 02	1,666 88	416 72		
		NW. quarter -	20	6 11	158 61	13 05	2,069 86	517 46½		
		SW. quarter -	29	6 11	159 05	16 10	2,560 70	640 17½		
		NW. quarter -	29	6 11	159 05	21 05	3,348 00	837 00		
7	-	SE. quarter -	9	7 11	160 46	5 75	922 64	46 00		Forfeited.
9	-	Frac. section -	11	4 12	574 48	3 20	1,838 34	459 58½		
		SW. quarter -	12	4 12	159 51	4 01	639 63	159 91		
		NW. quarter -	17	4 12	160 89	2 00	321 78	80 44½		
		SE. quarter -	25	4 12	159 58	4 60	734 06	36 00		Forfeited.

10	-	SE. quarter -	26	5	5	160 42	15 05	2,414 32	603 58	
11	-	SE. quarter -	3	7	12	160 13	3 80	608 49	152 12	
		SW. quarter -	3	7	12	160 13	3 20	512 41	128 10	
16	-	NE. quarter -	4	6	11	160 59	2 00	321 18	80 29 $\frac{1}{2}$	
		NE. quarter -	9	7	10	160 74	2 00	321 48	16 00	Forfeited.
		NW. quarter -	29	5	10	160 86	2 00	321 72	16 00	Forfeited.
		NE. quarter -	19	5	10	156 62	2 00	313 24	16 00	Forfeited.
		SE. quarter -	19	5	10	156 62	2 00	313 24	16 00	Forfeited.
		SW. quarter -	23	6	10	159 75	2 00	319 50	79 87	
		NE. quarter -	36	4	12	160 20	2 00	320 40	16 00	Forfeited.
		SW. quarter -	3	6	11	159 83	2 00	319 66	79 91 $\frac{1}{2}$	
		NW. quarter -	25	6	12	160 60	2 00	321 20	16 00	Forfeited.
		SW. quarter -	25	6	12	160 60	2 00	321 20	16 00	Forfeited.
		NW. quarter -	36	6	12	160 35	2 00	320 70	16 00	Forfeited.
		NE. quarter -	8	6	10	159 93	2 00	319 86	79 96 $\frac{1}{2}$	
		SW. quarter -	3	6	10	161 06	2 00	322 12	80 53	
		SW. quarter -	10	7	10	160 28	2 00	320 56	16 00	Forfeited.
		NE. quarter -	7	6	10	156 60	2 00	313 20	78 30	
		SW. quarter -	15	7	10	160 17	2 00	320 34	16 00	Forfeited.
		NW. quarter -	18	6	10	155 10	2 00	310 20	77 65	
		W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW. $\frac{1}{4}$ -	5	5	11	80 22	2 00	160 44	40 11	
17	-	E. $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE. $\frac{1}{4}$ -	2	2	11	79 61	2 00	159 22	39 80 $\frac{1}{2}$	
		SE. quarter -	4	6	10	160 63	2 00	321 26	80 31 $\frac{1}{2}$	
21	-	SE. quarter -	3	6	11	159 83	2 00	319 66	16 00	Forfeited.
23	-	NE. quarter -	36	5	5	160 42	5 55	890 33	45 00	Forfeited.
Dec. 9	-	SE. quarter -	5	6	10	159 78	2 00	319 56	79 89	
11	-	NW. quarter -	36	4	12	160 20	2 00	320 40	16 00	Forfeited.
1819.										
Feb. 12	-	SW. quarter -	14	5	9	159 17	2 00	318 34	79 58 $\frac{1}{2}$	
April 10	-	NE. quarter -	1	5	2	159 94	2 00	319 88	79 97	
						44,647 96	-	\$318,579 71	\$78,901 43 $\frac{1}{2}$	

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
General Land Office, April 23, 1822.

JOSIAH MEIGS, *Commissioner.*

*STATEMENT of balances due from John Brahan, late receiver of public moneys at Huntsville, to the United States, at the end of each quarter of every year, from the 1st of January, 1817, to the time of his dismissal from office, agreeably to a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 18th of April, 1822.*

1817.			1818.			1819.			1820.		
1st quarter	-	\$7,708 19	1st quarter	-	\$772 96	1st quarter	-	\$108,179 40	1st quarter	-	\$88,114 20
2d do.	-	5,923 74	2d do.	-	3,513 84	2d do.	-	88,356 51	Final balance due on		
3d do.	-	7,520 67	3d do.	-	23,606 31	3d do.	-	83,551 90	22d May, 1820		80,772 45
4th do.	-	14,448 72	4th do.	-	70,894 94	4th do.	-	86,484 70			

*Date of the receipt of the several accounts:*

1st quarter, 1817, received 29th May, 1817.  
 2d do. date cannot be ascertained.  
 3d do. received 12th February, 1818.  
 4th do. do. 12th February, 1818.  
 1st do. 1818, do. 22d November, 1819.  
 2d do. do. 30th January, 1820.  
 3d do. do. 6th June, 1820.

4th quarter, 1818, received  
 1st do. 1819, do.  
 2d do. do.  
 3d do. do.  
 4th do. do.  
 1st do. 1820, do.  
 Final account do.

15th January, 1821.  
 15th January, 1821.  
 15th January, 1821.  
 15th January, 1821.  
 15th January, 1821.  
 15th January, 1821.  
 15th January, 1821.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, GENERAL LAND OFFICE, 23d April, 1822.

JOSIAH MEIGS.

*Copy of a conveyance of certain property to the United States by John Brahan.*

This indenture, made this thirteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and nineteen, between John Brahan and Mary Brahan his wife of the first part, and Obadiah Jones, Clement C. Clay, John W. Walker, Le Roy Pope, and John Read of the second, (the said parties of the first and second part being all citizens of the county of Madison and State of Alabama,) and William H. Crawford, Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, and his successors in office, of the third part, witnesseth: That the said John Brahan and Mary his wife, in order to secure the payment of the debts hereinafter described, and in consideration of the sum of one dollar to them in hand paid by the said Obadiah Jones, Clement C. Clay, John W. Walker, Le Roy Pope, and John Read, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have granted, bargained, sold, aliened, enfeoffed, and confirmed, and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell, alien, enfeoff, and confirm, to the said Obadiah Jones, Clement C. Clay, John W. Walker, Le Roy Pope, and John Read, the following described tracts and parcels of land and lots lying and being in the county aforesaid; to wit: the northeast quarter of section number thirty-six, in township three, range one west of the basis meridian; the southeast quarter of section number twenty-five, in township three, and range one west; the northeast and northwest quarters of section number thirty-one, township three, and range one east of the basis meridian; the southeast and northwest quarters of section number thirty-two, in township three, range one east; the northwest quarter of section number two, in township four, and range one west of the basis meridian; and one hundred and forty acres, being part of the northeast quarter of section number two, township four, and range one west; together with the following-described lots of ground, lying and being within the town of Huntsville in said county, viz: the lot known in the plan of said town as number sixty; the lot known in the plan of said town as number fifty-three; and the house and lot adjoining the public square, bounded by Stephen Neal's lot on the western side, and Herbert Kyle and Dougherty's on the eastern; together with all buildings and appurtenances to said lands and lots in any way belonging: To have and to hold the aforesaid lands and lots, with the buildings, &c. to the said Obadiah Jones, Clement C. Clay, John W. Walker, Le Roy Pope, and John Read, to the only proper use of them, their heirs and assigns, forever. In trust, nevertheless, and upon the following conditions: Whereas, the said John Brahan is indebted to the Treasury of the United States, as receiver of public moneys, in the sum of eighty-one thousand nine hundred and sixty-three dollars and twenty cents, to secure which debt in part, the following-described notes have been assigned to the said Obadiah Jones, Clement C. Clay, John W. Walker, Le Roy Pope, and John Read, viz. one on James Clemens and Charles McClellan, due the twenty-second March, eighteen hundred and twenty-one, for four thousand dollars, given to said John Brahan; one on said James Clemens and Charles McClellan, for four thousand dollars, given to said John Brahan, due on the twenty-second March, eighteen hundred and twenty-one; one on Robert Fearn & Co. for four thousand dollars, given to said John

Brahan, due the nineteenth of January, eighteen hundred and twenty-one; one other on Robert Fearn & Co. for four thousand dollars, given to said John Brahan, due the nineteenth of January, eighteen hundred and twenty-one; one on Frederick W. Jones and Archibald B. Dandridge for two thousand two hundred and twenty-one dollars twenty-five cents, given to said John Brahan, due first of March, eighteen hundred and twenty-one; one on Frederick W. Jones and Archibald B. Dandridge for four thousand dollars, given to said Brahan, due the first of March, eighteen hundred and twenty; one on Samuel Clack and others, given to said John Brahan, due fifteenth of January, eighteen hundred and twenty, for three thousand four hundred and fifty dollars; one on John Boardman, given to said John Brahan, for eleven hundred dollars, due twenty-fifth of December, eighteen hundred and twenty; one on John Boardman, for eleven hundred dollars, given to said John Brahan, due twenty-fifth of December, eighteen hundred and twenty-one; one on John C. Ayres and others, for five hundred and fifty dollars eighty-nine cents, given to said John Brahan, due first of January, eighteen hundred and twenty-one; one on Robert L. Walton, for one thousand dollars, given to said John Brahan, due first January, eighteen hundred and twenty; three on John McKinley and Thomas Bibb, given to said John Brahan, for fifteen hundred dollars each, due on the first of June, eighteen hundred and twenty; another first of June, eighteen hundred and twenty-one; and another first of June, eighteen hundred and twenty-two; two on Brice M. Garner and Charles Boyles, for two thousand dollars each, given to said John Brahan, one due first of June, eighteen hundred and twenty-one, the other first of June, eighteen hundred and twenty-two; two on White and Read, for fourteen hundred and forty dollars each, given to said John Brahan, one due fifteenth April, eighteen hundred and twenty-one, the other on the fifteenth of April, eighteen hundred and twenty-two; two on John P. McConnel and Robert H. McErwin, for eleven hundred dollars each, given to said John Brahan, one due third of September, eighteen hundred and nineteen, and the other third of December, eighteen hundred and nineteen; and a bond on Solomon Marshall, for two thousand dollars, given to said John Brahan, due twelfth of May, eighteen hundred and twenty-one. Now should the said John Brahan pay into the Treasury of the United States, or should there be a sufficient sum collected on the before-described notes by the said trustees, together with such payment as may be made by said John Brahan, on or before twenty-third day of July next, as to amount to the sum of forty thousand nine hundred and eighty-one dollars and sixty cents, and should said John Brahan pay into the Treasury of the United States, or should there be collected by said trustees on said notes, together with the payments to be made by said John Brahan, on or before the twenty-third day of April, eighteen hundred and twenty-one, the further sum of forty thousand nine hundred and eighty-one dollars and sixty cents, then all estate hereby conveyed to Obabiah Jones, Clement C. Clay, John W. Walker, Le Roy Pope, and John Read, shall altogether cease, determine, and be void, and said trustees shall immediately re-convey to said John Brahan, by their indenture under seal, the whole of said above-described lots and lands, and shall re-assign to said John Brahan, such of said notes as may not have been collected; but if, on the said twenty-third day of



July next, the said sum of forty thousand nine hundred and eighty-one dollars and sixty cents, shall not be fully paid and discharged, the said trustees shall, so soon thereafter as the said William H. Crawford, Secretary as aforesaid, or his successors in office, shall require, proceed to sell for ready money, to the highest bidder, so much of the before-described lands and lots as will satisfy and discharge the said sum of forty thousand nine hundred and eighty-one dollars and sixty cents, together with the costs of such partial execution of this trust; and out of the proceeds of such sale said trustees shall first pay and satisfy the said last-mentioned sum of money, together with the costs, and the remainder, if any there be, shall be paid over to said trustees in part discharge of the said further sum of forty thousand nine hundred and eighty-one dollars and sixty cents, intended to be secured by this trust. And should the said further sum of forty thousand nine hundred and eighty-one dollars and sixty cents not be paid and fully discharged, on the twenty-third day of April, eighteen hundred and twenty-one, neither by collections on said notes or otherwise, the said trustees shall, so soon thereafter as they may be required by said William H. Crawford, or his successors, proceed to sell said lands and lots, or such part thereof as may not have been previously sold, as will be sufficient to raise said last-mentioned sum of money, and out of the proceeds thereof first pay so much as may be due to the Treasury of the United States as aforesaid, and the costs of executing this trust, and the remainder, if any, shall pay over to said John Brahan or his order, on demand; but if it is understood between the whole of said parties that, previous to any sale to be made as aforesaid, the said sale shall be advertised in some newspaper published in Huntsville, three weeks before the time of such sale, and all such sales shall be made in the town of Huntsville, or on the premises. And should the whole of said lands and lots not be sold for the purposes aforesaid, then said trustees agree and bind themselves to re-convey the remainder of said lands and lots which may remain unsold: And it is moreover understood that, in case of the death, removal, or absence from the State, of either of said trustees, that the survivors, or those remaining or being in the State, shall have and exercise all and every power, or powers, herein delegated to the trustees aforesaid; and, that nothing herein contained shall be deemed or construed to release, or in any manner acquit the said John Brahan from any claim for any other sum or sums of money which may appear to be due from him to the Government of the United States, in his said capacity, on a final settlement of his accounts.

In testimony whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and seals at Huntsville, on the day and year first above written.

JOHN BRAHAN,	[ L. S. ]
MARY BRAHAN,	[ L. S. ]
OBADIAH JONES,	[ L. S. ]
C. C. CLAY,	[ L. S. ]
J. W. WALKER,	[ L. S. ]
LE ROY POPE,	[ L. S. ]
JOHN READ,	[ L. S. ]

Signed, sealed, and delivered, in the presence of }

STATE OF ALABAMA, }  
Madison county, } *sect.*

This day personally appeared before me, at said county, the above John Brahan, Obadiah Jones, Clement C. Clay, John W. Walker, Le Roy Pope, and John Read, exhibited this deed, and acknowledged the same to have been by them respectively sealed and delivered at the day of its date. And, on said day, at said county, I exhibited and explained this deed to said Mary Brahan, separate and apart from her said husband, and on such her separate examination, she acknowledged that she signed, sealed, and delivered this, as her deed, freely, without any fear, threats, or compulsion of her said husband.

Given under the hand and seal of me, David Moore, one of the justices of the county court and of the quorum of said county, at said county, the thirtieth day of October, eighteen hundred and nineteen.

DAVID MOORE, *J. P.* [L. s.]

The foregoing is a true copy of the record as in my office remaining.  
Given under my hand this sixth of November, eighteen hundred and nineteen.

H. MINER, *Clerk C. C.*